

Central Congregational Church
New Orleans, Louisiana

ORLEANS PARISH

HABS No. LA-22

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District Louisiana

Historic American Building Survey
Richard Koch, District Officer
614 Audubon Building, New Orleans, Louisiana

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CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

(Destroyed)

South Liberty Street and Cleveland Avenue

New Orleans, Louisiana

OWNER

American Missionary Association

DATE OF ERECTION

1846

ARCHITECT

Unknown

BUILDER

Unknown

PRESENT CONDITION

Demolished in 1935

NUMBER OF STORIES

Two and balcony

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION

Brick, cemented. Frame tower. Slate roof.

OTHER EXISTING RECORDS

Act of Sale, May 21, 1872 - New Orleans Courthouse

Act of Sale, Jan. 21, 1837 - Lots & buildings thereon
New Orleans CourthouseADDITIONAL DATA

The Central Congregational Church was built in 1846, according to an inscription on its cornerstone. It was originally the Fourth Presbyterian Church. The property was not acquired by the church, however, until March 24, 1858, when it was purchased for \$4200.00 from George Bergerot of France, by an Act of sale before

H. B. Cenas, Notary Public. The Fourth Presbyterian Church sold the building to the American Missionary Association of New York in 1872, and it was dedicated to the use of the Negro Central Congregational Church that same year. The cornerstone mentioned above was set at that time.

The names of the architect and builder of the church are not known, although it is quite probable that it is the work of Henry Howard, Architect of the First Presbyterian Church, Madewood Plantation, Jefferson Parish Courthouse in Carrollton, and various other buildings in New Orleans and vicinity. He also did several other Presbyterian Churches.

The design of the Central Congregational Church is not particularly noteworthy, except for the very graceful spire. The building consists of a rusticated basement story surmounted by an ionic portico of six heavy pilasters. There were three circular headed windows between the four center ones. The side elevation is divided into six bays by flat pilasters, between each pair of which is a large circular headed window.

The openings in the basement story curiously are not centered below the large windows in the auditorium.

The cornice is very heavy with mouldings and dentils run in stucco over brick, cemented; except in the rear where the brick is exposed. The roof is of slate.

The octagonal tower is of frame construction with eight

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fluted wood columns with wood bases and cast iron ionic caps. The slender spire is sheathed with sheets of copper and topped with a copper ball.

The interior is quite ordinary. Wide stairways rise from each end of the entrance vestibule to the auditorium floor and continue up to the balcony level. The balcony extends around three sides of the auditorium and is supported on cast iron columns. The ceiling is of metal, obviously an addition.

The building was demolished in 1935, just after being measured by the Historic American Buildings Survey. Its site is now used as a parking lot, and the church has moved to another location.

Samuel Wilson, Jr.
May, 1935

APPROVED:

Richard Koch
Richard Koch, District Officer
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
IN LOUISIANA

Rev. Oct. 8 '36 T.W.